

NEWS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS*

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For Immediate Release

JULY 28, 2005

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on July 20, 2005, a Federal Grand Jury sitting in East St. Louis returned a sealed Indictment charging **TERRY L. BREWER**, age 22, of 440 N. 5th Street, Belleville, Illinois, with Mail Fraud, Access Device Fraud, and Misuse of Social Security Number, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341 and 1029(a)(2) and Title 42, United States Code, Section 408(a)(7), respectively. The Indictment was unsealed on July 28, 2005, at **BREWER'S** arraignment.

The four count Indictment alleges that **BREWER** participated in an identity theft scheme from December, 2003, to March 2004, in St. Clair County, Illinois, and elsewhere. The Indictment alleges:

- that **BREWER** obtained a list belonging to a manufacturing company which included the names and social security numbers of some of its employees;
- that **BREWER** would apply for credit card accounts, lines of credit, and other accounts using the social security numbers and personal information of other individuals, including individuals who were on the list of manufacturing company employees;
- that **BREWER** would provide credit card companies, merchants and credit issuers with his residential address;
- that credit card companies, merchants and credit issuers would use the United States Mails and commercial interstate carriers to send credit cards, correspondence, invoices, and merchandise to **TERRY L. BREWER**, resulting in actual losses of approximately \$17,000 and intended losses exceeding approximately \$30,000.

The Indictment also includes a forfeiture count seeking the proceeds of the access device fraud, including computer equipment.

The Mail Fraud charge carries a penalty of up to 20 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, and up to 3 years of supervised release, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1341. The Access Device Fraud charge carries a penalty of up to 10 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, and up to 3 years of supervised release, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1029. The Misuse of Social Security Number charge carries a penalty of up to 5 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, and up to 3 years of supervised release, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B).

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The investigation was conducted by the Southern Illinois Identity Theft Task Force, which is spearheaded by the United States Postal Inspection Service. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Suzanne M. Garrison.